Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

GOVERNOR JOSEPH MORTON AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

By A. S. Salley, Jr.

Joseph Morton, sometime Governor of South Carolina, came to the Province of Carolina about 1681 and, in consideration of his successes in inducing Dissenters to settle in Carolina, he was soon after made a Landgrave, and, on May 18, 1682, was commissioned, by the Palatine of Carolina, the Earl of Craven, "governor and commander-in-chief of that part of Carolina lying south and west of Cape Fear"[1] and served until 1684, when he was succeeded by Sir Richard Kyrle, Knt., who had been commissioned by the Lords Proprietors, April 29, 1684[2]; was chosen Governor by the Council of Carolina upon the retirement of Governor West in 1685, and the election was confirmed by the Lords Proprietors in September, 1685,[3] and he served for about a year, when he was succeeded by Landgrave James Colleton who had been commissioned by the Lords Proprietors, August 31, 1686.[4]

In the summer of 1686 the Spaniards made a landing on the Edisto, raided the plantations and sacked the houses of Governor Morton and Secretary Grimball (those officers being in Charles Town) and killed the Governor's brother-in-law, Edward Bowell.[5]

During the first administration of Governor Morton, Benjamin Blake (brother of the famous English admiral, Gen.

---

[1] *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society,* Vol. I., p. 106.

[2] Ibid, p. 111.

[3] McCrady's *History of South Carolina under the Proprietary Government,* p. 210; *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society,* Vol. I., p. 114.

[4] Ibid, p. 117.

[5] Rivers's *Sketch of the History of South Carolina,* p. 443.

Robert Blake), whose daughter Governor Morton is said to have married, settled in South Carolina.[6] Governor Morton died between the spring of 1686, when we find records of him as Governor and the date of the recording of his will, May 25, 1688.[7]

---

[6] "'Twas about this time, that the Persecution rais'd by the Popish Faction, and their adherents, in England, against the Protestant Dissenters, was at the height; and no Part of this Kingdom suffer'd more by it than Somersetshire. The Author of this History liv'd at that time with Mr. Blake, brother to the famous General of that name, being educated by his Son-in-law, who taught School in Bridgewater; and remembers, tho' then very young, the reasons old Mr. Blake us'd to give for leaving England: One of which was, That the miseries they endur'd, meaning the Dissenters then, were nothing to what he foresaw would attend the Reign of a Popish successor; wherefore he resolv'd to remove to *Carolina:* And he had so great an Interest among Persons of his principles, I mean Dissenters, that many honest substantial Persons engaged to go over with him."—J. Oldmixon's *History of Carolina* (See Carroll's *Historical Collections of South Carolina,* Vol. II., p. 407).

Governor John Archdale, in his *Description of that Fertile and Pleasant Province of Carolina* (London, 1707), speaking of Governor West's administration, says he "left Matters a little better settled to Governour *Jos. Morton,* in whose time General *Blake's* Brother, with many Dissenters came to *Carolina*". (See Carroll's *Historical Collections of South Carolina,* Vol. II., p. 101.)

Oldmixon, in his *History of Carolina* (London, 1708), speaking of Benjamin Blake and Governor Morton, says (See Carroll's *Historical Collections of South Carolina,* Vol. II., p. 409): "The Governour, as we are told, marry'd Mrs. Elizabeth Blake his daughter." But the public records in Charleston abundantly prove that Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin Blake, married William Dry, who dying, she next married Richard Weekley (See *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* Vol. I., pp. 154-155), and Governor Morton's will shows that his wife's name was Elinor. Edward Randolph, Collector of Customs, writing in 1701 (See *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society,* Vol. I., p. 215) calls Landgrave Morton Governor Blake's brother-in-law.

[7] Will of Joseph Morton, of Carolina, Landgrave, made April 14, 1685, and proved November 20, 1688, mentions sons, Joseph and John (to whom he gave lands in Berrow, Somersetshire); daughter Deborah Blake; sister, Rebecca Bowell, brother-in-law, Edward Bowell, and wife, Elinor. Recorded in Carolina, May 25, 1688. Administration granted,

Issue:

1. I. Joseph Morton.
2. II. John Morton.
3. III. Deborah Blake.[8]
4. IV. Florence Morton.

I.

LANDGRAVE JOSEPH MORTON [Landgrave Joseph[1]], was a Lord Proprietor's deputy and member of the Grand Council of South Carolina as early as November, 1685[9], and became Landgrave upon the death of his father; was appointed Judge of the Court of Admiralty of South Carolina in 1697[10]; being senior Landgrave, he was elected Governor by the Council upon the death of Governor Blake in 1700, but Council immediately rescinded that action and elected James Moore Governor because some members contended that Morton was disqualified by his holding the office of Judge of the Admiralty under the King[11]; was one of the commissioners appointed under the Act passed November

---

March 19, 1705, to Mrs. Anne Wills, wife of Thomas Wills, formerly Mrs. Anne Morton, widow and administrator with the will annexed of John Morton, son of said Joseph. (See *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* Vol. IV, p. 292.)

[8] Whether her full name was Deborah Blake Morton, or whether it was Deborah Morton and she married a Blake cannot be determined from the wills of Governor Morton and his son, John, both of which are here recited.

[9] McCrady's *History of South Carolina under the Proprietary Government,* p. 210.

[10] An order was given to Sir Charles Hedges, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty of England, May 28, 1697, to prepare letter patents empowering the governors of North and South Carolina for the time being to appoint admiralty officers when vacancies should occur. On February 17, 1697-98, William Bridgeman, Secretary of the Admiralty, in a letter to Mr. Popple, furnished a list of the Admiralty officers of the Carolinas. Joseph Morton is thereon named as the Judge, so that his appointment must have been made between those dates.

[11] Oldmixon's *History of Carolina* (Carroll's *Historical Collections of South Carolina,* Vol. II., pp. 417-418).

16, 1700, "for securing the Provincial Library at Charlestown in Carolina"[12]; was a leader of the Dissenters party in the struggle over the election of 1702[13], and that over the Church Act, being denied in the Council the right to enter a protest against the latter[14]; was one of the commissioners appointed under the Act passed April 8, 1710, "for the Founding and Erecting of a Free School, for the use of the Inhabitants of South Carolina"[15]; married Sarah Wilkinson[16]; died prior to September 12, 1721.[17] His widow *m.*, August 3, 1723, Hon. Arthur Middleton (1681-1737)[18], and died September 24, 1765.[19]

---

[12] *The Statutes at Large of South Carolina,* Vol. II, p. 374.

[13] McCrady's *History of South Carolina under the Proprietary Government,* p. 391.

[14] Ibid. p. 409.

[15] *The Statutes at Large of South Carolina,* Vol. II., pp. 342-346.

[16] See *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* Vol. I., p. 232.

[17] Will of Joseph Morton ,"of the Province of Carolina Landgrave", made October 12, 1713, and proved before Governor Nicholson, September 12, 1721, gave niece, Florence Beamor, daughter of his sister, £100. currency; gave wife, Sarah Morton, one half of his entire estate, real and personal, not otherwise bequeathed; gave son, Joseph Morton, the other half thereof and directed that he be given "the best education in the country"; appointed wife sole executrix. Mrs. Sarah Morton qualified as executrix, April 2, 1722. (Probate Court records, Charleston County, Book 1671-1727, pp. 153-154.)
Josiah Granville Leach, LL. B., in his *Memoranda Relating to the Ancestry and Family of Hon. Levi Parsons Morton* (Cambridge, 1894) has made no distinction between the elder Landgrave Morton and the younger. Gen. McCrady has not done so either in his *History of South Carolina under the Proprietary Government.*

[18] Register of St. Andrew's Parish.

[19] Will of Mrs. Sarah Middleton, of St. James's Parish, Goose Creek, widow, made June 8, 1765, and proved before Hon. Wm. Bull, Lieut. Gov., Oct. 1, 1765, gave Christopher Wilkinson son of her "Cousin" Francis Wilkinson, deceased, a plantation on Wadmalaw Island "Commonly Called Bear-Bluff Ladinwah and Morton Town"; gave Edward Wilkinson, son of said "Cousin Francis", a plantation or island opposite to Willtown and the lots in Willtown which she had bought of her "Cousin" Joseph Wilkinson and Robert Yonge, deceased, and the buildings thereon and a tract of land in the upper part of Beech Hill, St.

Issue:

5. I. Joseph Morton. (Mentioned in his father's will.)

6. II. John Morton. (Mentioned in his mother's will.)

Paul's Parish; gave Morton Wilkinson, son of said "Cousin Francis" two plantations called Tooboodoo and Jupiter's in St Paul's, providing that if said Morton Wilkinson should die without male issue that the said plantations should go to her grandson, John Middleton, son of her "son-in-law" (step-son), William Middleton and then in case of his death to his two brothers, Thomas and Henry Middleton; gave her three step-sons, William, Henry and Thomas Middleton all the personal estate that had been left her by her late husband, Hon. Arthur Middleton; gave said William £7000. currency and to Sarah, his wife, £3500. currency, and her best diamond ring and large silver monteth; gave said William in trust for his son, William, her share in the "Capital Stock and Funds of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England as it remained at the time of the decease of Mr: John Nicholson of London Merchant", her attorney, and £1000. sterling that had been taken out of said bank and was then in the hands of said William; gave Thomas, Henry and John, sons of said William, £1000. sterling each; gave step-son, Henry Middleton £6000. currency, a silver tea kettle and the lamp, waiter and stand belonging thereto; gave Arthur Middleton, son of said Henry, £2000. currency; gave Thomas, Henrietta, Hester, Sarah, Mary and Susannah, son and daughters of said Henry, £2000. currency each; gave step-son, Thomas Middleton, £6000. currency; gave William, son of said Thomas, £2000. currency; gave Sarah and Mary, daughters of said Thomas, a like sum each; gave "Cousins John Waring and Elizabeth Smith, son and daughter of Richard Waring Esqr: deceased, and unto Benjamin Waring son of Benjamin Waring deceased and grandson of said Richard Waring", £500. currency each; gave Thomas Waring, son of "Cousin Thomas Waring deceased", £2000. currency; gave step-son, Henry Middleton, £6000. currency in trust for Morton, Mary and Sarah Waring, children of said "Cousin Thomas Waring deceased", directing that it be put out at interest which should be applied "toward the support maintenance and Education of said Morton, Mary and Sarah" and that Morton should receive one third of the principal upon reaching twenty one and Mary and Sarah should each receive a third at eighteen or marriage; gave said Morton Waring a negro woman, bought at said Thomas Waring's estate sale, and her children; gave Elizabeth, wife of Christopher Wilkinson, £1000. currency; gave Sarah Sanders, wife of James Sanders, of St. George's Parish, Dorchester, £1000. currency; gave Thomas and Ann Slann £1000. currency each; gave Peter, Joseph and Andrew, sons of

2.

JOHN MORTON [Landgrave Joseph[1]], a merchant of London, *m.* Ann ——; *d.* between August 27, 1694, and April 28, 1699.[20] His widow subsequently married Thomas Wills.[21]

"Cousin Andrew Slann deceased", £1000. currency each, to be placed at interest for their maintenance and education until of age; gave friend, John Moultrie, Jr., £500. currency and his daughter, Sarah, a like sum; gave God-son, John Drayton, son of Thomas Drayton, deceased, $200. currency; gave God-son, Joseph Brailsford, and God-daughter, Sarah Brailsford, and John Brailsford, children of Joseph Brailsford, deceased, £1000. each when of age; gave Morton Brailsford, son of Morton Brailsford, deceased, £1000. currency when of age, the interest thereon to be applied to his maintenance and education; gave Samuel Brailsford, merchant, £500. currency, and to his son, William Brailsford, her God-son, £200. currency; gave Rev. James Harrison, minister of St. James's, Goose Creek, £100. currency and to his wife and their daughter, Carolina, £50. currency each to buy mourning rings; gave Joseph Wilkinson and Ann Peters, son and daughter of "said Cousin Francis Wilkinson, deceased", £200. currency each; gave Mrs. Ann Slann, widow of "said Cousin Andrew Slann deceased" £500. currency; gave Sarah Dart, widow of Ferdinando Dart, deceased, £200. currency to buy mourning; gave said Morton Wilkinson her gold watch and chain which had belonged to her "son John Morton, Esqr. deceased"; gave said Christopher, Edward and Morton Wilkinson all of her books, household furniture and table and sheeting linen and silver plate, rings and other jewels not otherwise given, to be equally divided between them, and also all negroes and other slaves, horses, cattle and other stock not otherwise given, to be equally divided between them; gave remainder of estate to Mrs. Sarah Middleton, Christopher, Edward and Morton, children of "said Cousin Francis Wilkinson deceased", and John Middleton, son of her step-son, William Middleton, to be divided equally between them; appointed step-sons, William and Henry Middleton, executors. Witnesses: Benjamin Coachman, Lewis Mottet and Benjamin Villepontoux. (Probate Court Records, Charleston County, Book 1760-67, pp. 565-571.)

[20] Will of John Morton, of London, merchant, made August 27, 1694, and proved April 28, 1699, gave wife, Ann, £20; daughter, Ann, £100; friend Robert Cuthbert, of London, goldsmith, £10; sister, Deborah Blake, two negroes; aunt, Rebecca Bowell, two negroes and his plantation in Carolina for life, at her death to go to his brother, Joseph Morton; appointed friend Robert Cuthbert, Jr., of London, goldsmith, executor, and trustee and guardian of daughter, Ann. (See Vol. IV. of this magazine, p. 292.)

[21] On March 19, 1705, administration was granted on the estate of

Issue:

7. 1. Ann Morton.

FLORENCE MORTON [Landgrave Joseph[1]], *m.*, August 5, 1701, John Beamor; *d.* August 28, 1707. John Beamor *d.* June 24, 1739.[22]

Issue:

8. 1. Florence Beamor, *b.* Sept. 13, 1702; *m.*, July 24, 1721, Richard Waring; *d.* Dec. 12, 1744. (Issue.)[23]

Joseph Morton, Landgrave, of Carolina, to Ann Wills, formerly Morton, relict and administratrix with the will annexed of John Morton. (Ibid.)

[22] The following is from a copy of a record in an old Bible accidentally discovered in the North. Unfortunately we have not the name of the copyist or the place where he or she found the Bible. On the original copy it is stated that the then owner of the Bible was Mr. Andrew Stuart, who said that he had obtained it from Mr. Christopher Minor, who had married into his family, and at whose hotel it had been accidentally left by some travellers whose names Mr. Stuart did not know:

John Beamor
His Book.

Was married August 5th. day 1701 to Miss Florance Morton.
My daughter Florance was born September the 13th. 1702 at 11 o'clock in the morning.
My son Joseph was born 12th:: March 1703/4 at 10 o'clock in the morning.
My son Joseph departed this life July 28th:: 1704.
My wife departed this Life August 28th:: 1707.
My second wife and I was married 7th:: December 1710.
My Brother Tatnell departed this Life Feb [Rest gone.]
My Mother departed this Life May [Rest gone.]
My Brother Jacob Beamor departed this Life 16th January 1712.
My wife departed this Life 24th:: Sept. 1716.
Was married to Mrs. Judith Steward [Appears to be.]

See also the will of Landgrave Joseph Morton, note 17.

[23] The record in the Bible just referred to continues:
Richard Waring's Book given by my father Beamor 1st:: day of January 1722/3

9. II. Joseph Beamor, *b.* March 12, 1704; *d.* July 28, 1704.

6.

JOHN MORTON [Landgrave Joseph[2], Landgrave Joseph[1]], was evidently born after his father made his will, October 12, 1713; *m.*, July 31, 1747,[24] Dorothy Dry; d. prior to

---

My Mother Elizabeth Waring departed this Life Oct. —— 1719.
Was married to Miss Florence Beamor 24th:: July 1721.
My Son Richard Waring was born Friday 30th. March 1722 and was baptised by Mr Mery.
My daughter Florence Morton was born Satterday Morning 2nd:: May 1724 and was baptised by Mr Ludlam.
My Son Joseph was born Sunday 6th:: March 1726. and was baptised by Mr Vernod.
My son John was born Tuesday 2nd. April 1728. and was baptised by Mr Vernod—and departed this life 25th:: January 1729.
My Brother Joseph departed this life 23rd January 1729.
My daughter Sarah was born Monday Nov — was baptised by Mr Vernod
My daughter Elizabeth was born on Sunday night the 3rd:: December 1732. and was baptised by Mr. Vernod.
My Son John was born Satterday 11th:: January 1734, 8 o'clock at night and was baptised by Mr Vernod.
My daughter Mary was born Friday Morning the 1st:: day of July 1737 and was baptised by Mr. Melichamp.
My Father Beamor—departed this life 24th:: June 1739.
My Brother Thomas departed this life 1st. Feby. 1740.
My Brother Benja:: Waring departed this Life 26th:: July 1739. aged 49 years.
My daughter Florance Morton departed this life September 10th. 1743.
My dear Wife departed this Life, Wednesday the 12th:: day December 1744.
My Brother Josiah Departed this Life 30th:: January 1744.
My daughter Sarah Elliott departed this Life in November 21st. 1740.
—John Waring his Bible—
My dear Father departed this life Satterday Morning 10th:: March 1753.—aged 57 years—

The record continues with the descendants of John Waring.

[24] "Last Thursday the Hon. *William Middleton,* Esq; was married to Miss *Sarah Wilkinson.* As was also, *John Moreton* Esq; to Miss *Dorothy Dry.*"—*The So^th. Carolina Gazette,* Monday, August 3, 1747.

April, 1753, when his widow *m.* Dr. John Moultrie, Jr.[25] No issue.

---

[25] "On Saturday last Doct. JOHN MOULTRIE, jun. was married to Mrs. *Mary Morton*, a very agreeable young Widow, with a large Fortune, which is not reckoned her most considerable accomplishment."—*The South-Carolina Gazette,* April 30, 1753.
"Our Readers are desired to correct a Mistake in that Paragraph of our last, which mentions Mr. MOULTRIE'S Marriage, the Lady's Name being there called MARY, when it should have been DOROTHY."—*The South-Carolina Gazette,* May 7, 1753.